

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 53—NO. 112

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1917

PRICE TWO CENTS

## REACH AGREEMENT ON ARMY BILL; AGE LIMIT FOR DRAFT 21 TO 30; ROOSEVELT VOLUNTEER ARMY PROVISION ELIMINATED

### OUTLOOK FOR CROPS IN ENGLAND IS NO BETTER THAN THAT IN AMERICA

Uniformly Discouraging Reports From All Parts of Country Indicate That United States Resources Will Be Taxed to Utmost.

Backward Spring Delays Planting Many Weeks—Only Most Favorable Weather Conditions Will Permit Approach to Normal Output.

New York, May 10—Correspondence of a reliable nature reaching the Associated Press today, from London, reveals a discouraging outlook abroad for the cultivation of crops.

The trying experiences of the New England farmers who have been waiting weeks for favorable weather to push their planting have found a counterpart in the British Isles. Only the most favorable conditions for the next week or two will alleviate the conditions.

England's wheat area cannot be large this year, the potato crop is badly hampered, and many cattle have been slaughtered for the want of the shortage of foodstuffs for cattle. Part of the information included in the correspondence follows:

"Reports of the agricultural outlook in Great Britain are almost uniformly discouraging. Not even the oldest farmer recalls a more trying time than that through which he has just been passing. A late sowing, a poor yield, a wet autumn and a severe winter have been followed by a spring with all the marked characteristics of December."

"The state of the field is called in all the agricultural reports 'serious,' although it is still possible that a period of warm weather might change the situation considerably by the end of May."

"The wheat area, it is said, cannot be large this year."

"In the middle of April potato farmers were still awaiting a favorable moment to push ahead their planting. Everything is in a state of uncertainty."

"Owing to the shortage of cattle foodstuffs, there will be a large reduction in numbers of live stock on the farms during the next three months."

Distribution, Not Production, Great Problem, Says Lubin

Rome, May 10—With last year's world food crops poor and those of this year poorer, it is necessary even if the war ends this summer or fall for the United States to apply rigid food war measures, according to David Lubin of California, founder of the International Institute of Agriculture here, and American representative to it. Mr. Lubin already has submitted to President Wilson and other officials plans for the regulation of food distribution.

"The mobilization of our agricultural resources comes next in importance to the handling of our army and navy," said Mr. Lubin in outlining his plans to the Associated Press. "The war problem is not one of production but of distribution. We have seen how the Russian government was overthrown because people were starving in a country that has had ever since the beginning of the war immense supplies of surplus wheat, which the closing of the Dardanelles prevented from going to market."

"There is more manipulation of food products in the United States than in the belligerent countries of Europe, so the first thing to do after we have quit throwing away food, wasting it, and have begun to plant locally in each state and county more heavily, is to shut off manipulation through an effective national food distribution organization."

"I can't say how tremendously important is such a measure. I don't want to see the American people reach the point, as today has been reached in Germany, of having to have the contents of their slop pails requisitioned. But we must remember that no food detail can be neglected. In France and England they were too slow in seeing the importance of food—just two years too slow."

"Our remedy for high prices, for speculation, and our method for providing enough food to eat, lies in the duplication of the German system of organizing the farmers and in the proper adaptation of our parcel post for food deliveries. The great strength

### PIG RAISING IN CITY LIMITS IS NEW SUGGESTION

Food Conservation Experts May Seek to Have Restrictions Modified

Facing a shortage of meat that in the minds of many experienced agriculturists is far more serious than the potato situation, food mobilization experts in this country and New Haven are seriously considering a combined effort to stimulate pig-raising.

The Yale National bank at New Haven has gone so far as to advance free of all encumbrance to approved boys, funds with which to buy and raise pigs.

The Fairfield County Farm bureau has already discussed a similar proposition at its meetings with no definite plan under consideration at this time. It is likely that within the next few days the matter will be placed before the board of health that certain restrictions prohibitory to pig raising in Bridgeport and its outskirts may be modified.

With the price of pork highly inflated and the prospect of its advancing still higher as the shortage of beef becomes apparent, the profit in pig raising under certain conditions is predicted as far above that of agricultural profits.

In Bridgeport where garbage is contracted for by a collecting company, it is impossible to sell it to farmers, and a large quantity of valuable food matter to hogs is being utilized in commercial ventures.

Should restrictions be lifted on raising pigs at least in the less thickly settled outskirts of the city it is believed that home owners will find the raising of at least one pig from the table levies most profitable and will also aid the farmer in disposing of much of the otherwise wasted corn product to a profit at the close of the season.

It is pointed out by experts here that with comparatively little care one pig may be raised by a boy to a profit of between \$15 and \$20.

In the event of severe shortage of meat during the coming winter, a pig, properly dressed, salted and smoked would provide largely for the family sustenance during the winter and spring, as nothing is wasted in home dressing of that animal.

U.S. TO FINANCE BELGIAN RELIEF BY COMMISSION

Hoover Will Continue to Direct Work From Washington Office

Washington, May 10—Instead of the \$1,000,000 a month that Americans as individuals have been contributing to Belgian relief, hereafter \$7,500,000 for Belgium and \$5,000,000 for northern France will be provided monthly by the United States government for use of the American Belgian relief commission. The sum of \$75,000,000, enough for six months, has been loaned to the French and Belgian governments jointly, to be spent for food to go to the populations of each country under rule of the Germans.

More may be provided later, and all food distribution will be in the hands of Dutch and Spanish agents, under direction of the commission, whose director, Herbert C. Hoover, will maintain headquarters in Washington.

NEWS REPORT OF ATTACK ON KAISER OFFICIALLY DENIED

Berlin, May 10, via London.—The report recently emanating from Zurich that an attempt had been made to assassinate Emperor William is denied in an official statement made today.

THE WEATHER

Fair tonight and Friday.

### FOUR PERISH AS NEW HAVEN TUG SINKS IN SOUND

Towboat James H. Hogan Capsizes in Heavy Sea Off So' West Light.

KEEPER PULLS TWO OF CREW FROM SEA

Craft Formerly Familiar Sight to Bridgeport Harbor Men.

New Haven, May 10—Four men perished when the tug James H. Hogan, outward bound for Branford with the coal laden barge Kingston in tow, capsized and sank in a heavy sea off the Southwest light today. The dead were: Emil Johnson, captain; William R. Huntley, engineer; Ned Wesson or Weston, fireman, and Jeremiah Sullivan, deck hand.

The men grasped life preservers as the boat went over and jumped into the water, trying to make shore or the barge. Two of them sank and the other two died after being taken out of the water by the keeper of the light, who put out to the struggling men in a small boat.

The Hogan, which was a boat of 62 feet in length, a breadth of 14 feet and a tonnage of 32 gross, was built in Jersey City, N. J., in 1886. She was owned by the New Haven Towing Co., in connection with the James McWilliams "Blue Line."

At one time the Hogan was a familiar boat in Bridgeport harbor but with the introduction of higher powered boats on the line, was reserved for towing purposes in and about New Haven.

### CASH READY FOR DEPENDENT FOLK OF SOLDIER MEN

Charities Department Here to Make Payments to Four Families.

Supt. Angus Thorn of the charities department, received from the state board of control at Hartford, orders to furnish payments of money to dependents of men enlisted in the state militia. The request of four soldiers for allowances were all that have been acted favorably upon so far.

The sums range from \$26 to \$44 a month and will be paid weekly from funds of the charities department. The state will reimburse the department semi-annually.

Supt. Thorn stated this morning that only in cases where the soldier is the sole support of dependents will allowances be granted and dependents of men who are members of the United States regular army are excluded from the benefits of allowances.

The allowances granted date in each case from the time of the enlistment of the militiaman in regular service.

### PRES. MENOCALESCAPES BOMB OF ASSASSINS

Havana, May 10—An attempt was made last night to assassinate President Menocal of Cuba, by means of a bomb explosion. Nine arrests were made before the conspirators could carry out their plan.

### ADVANCE WEST POINT CADETS ONE YEAR TO TRAIN NEW ARMIES

Washington, May 10—The first class at West Point will be graduated August 30, the war department announced today, and immediately commissioned to supply 154 highly trained officers to aid in the instruction of the first 500,000 drafted army to be called to the colors some time in September.

Under normal conditions the cadets would have completed their course at the academy in June, 1918.

### FIRE RACKS NEW YORK'S CITY HALL

Historic Structure Badly Damaged by Blaze That Firemen Fight for More Than An Hour—Relics Soon Removed.

Structure Was Wired Heavily for Decoration in Honor of Visiting Commissioners, Defective Insulation Suspected.

New York, May 10—Fire breaking out in the old City Hall shortly after noon today did great damage to the structure and caused beyond the financial loss, much irreparable injury to historical relics in the structure.

Discovered at 12:45, the flames were not under control until an hour later. The fire broke out in the cupola. At 1:45, when the cupola had been gutted and the historic clock destroyed, the firemen had the blaze under control.

The building had been wired heavily for decorations in honor of the visiting commissioners of France and England, and it is suspected that defective insulation may have caused the fire.

The city hall was erected more than 100 years ago and is regarded as one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture in the country. It contains many priceless relics of historical significance to the city and the nation. The architect was John McComb. Construction began in 1803 and it was completed in 1812.

The American flag flying from the flag pole surmounting the cupola was rescued. On the floor just beneath the roof were stored many historical relics, including paintings of great value and furniture which once was used by the first United States senate.

Police and firemen hastened to remove these treasures to a place of safety.

Huge crowds gathered in City Hall plaza, and in Park Row and Broadway, completely blocking traffic.

All the decorations in honor of the French and British envoys were ruined by water.

### MARINE GUNNER LOST AS TANKER SHIP IS BURNED

Details of Destruction of British Ship Sebastian Are Suppressed

Newport, R. I., May 10.—The British oil tank motor ship Sebastian, which was towed by an American gunboat to a New England port with fire raging fiercely in her hold, sank today. Thomas Jones, a marine gunner attached to a government vessel which had the Sebastian in tow, was lost.

Commandant Bryan of the Second naval district announced that the ship went to the bottom at a point southwest of the Nantuxet Shoal lightship. No information as to how the gunner lost his life was made public. Soon after the Sebastian sent out S. O. S. calls on Tuesday night several vessels proceeded to her assistance, and a transatlantic liner stood by until a patrol boat took the crew off yesterday morning.

The Sebastian, bound from New York for Cardiff, was of 1,846 net tonnage. She was commanded by Capt. Falconer and her home port was London.

Because of the strict censorship the cause of the fire was not revealed.

### French Officers, Prisoners, Placed Under Aero Fire

Berlin, May 10—Via London.—An official statement issued here today, says:

In reprisal for the placing of a German general and 15 staff officers on French hospital ships in the Mediterranean the German authorities have placed thrice this number of French officers of corresponding rank at points in the western industrial district which are especially subject to aerial attack.

RECEIVE CULVERT BIDS.

Bids were being received today by the board of contract and supply for the culvert in Boston avenue to the city line.

### NEW YORK HAS GREAT HOLIDAY FOR VISITORS

Proceeds of Opera Performance, Probably \$100,000, for War Charity.

ROOSEVELT HAS LONG TALK WITH JOFFRE

Program of Many Activities Occupies Second Day of Visitors.

New York, May 10—The French war commission visiting New York faced a formidable program today, calling for the presence of its distinguished members from 9:30 o'clock this morning until midnight and carrying them from Prospect park in Brooklyn to Grant's tomb on Riverside Drive. The unveiling of a statue to Lafayette, a luncheon by the Merchants' association, the conferring of degrees at Columbia and a visit by Marshal Joffre to the tomb of Grant were the chief functions claiming the attendance of the mission.

New York today renewed the welcome extended to Marshal Joffre and M. Viviani in such unsurpassed warmth yesterday. Never before had this chief city of America accorded any one man or group of men the welcome that broke into a tremendous demonstration whenever the victor of the Marne and his distinguished associates appeared where the people could get a glimpse of them in passing through the gaily decorated streets.

In numbers New York showed the magnitude of its appreciation of the ideals of the man and thousands of persons were banded along the route taken by the visiting mission from Battery Park to the city hall, along lower Broadway and Fifth avenue unmindful of the cold wind and intermittent rain to see Joffre and to do him honor.

Tonight members of the mission will attend a reception in the public library under the auspices of the French societies of New York. Following the party will be escorted to the Metropolitan opera house for the gala performance and reception. From the sale of seats a fund of \$50,000 has been raised and it was estimated today that this would be increased to \$100,000 to be presented to Marshal Joffre for his favorite war charities, the commission for relief in Belgium and the Society for the Relief of French War Orphans. The fund, known as the Joffre check, will represent the largest sum ever raised by a benefit performance at the Metropolitan opera house. More than half of the \$50,000 realized yesterday came from the sale of 35 boxes at \$1,000 each. The check will be presented to Marshal Joffre.

(Continued on Page 2.)

### SOLDIER HIT BY ERASER CAUSES ARREST OF MAN

Judge Wilder Releases Culprit, Employee of Police Commissioner

"If I were Mr. Stanley, I think I would be glad to know that this sort of discipline prevailed in his factory."

The foregoing comment made by Judge Frank Wilder, following the hearing of testimony in the case of Harry Marthers, a draughtsman in the American & British plant who was arrested after an eraser which he had thrown struck a soldier doing guard duty at the factory of which John C. Stanley, police commissioner, is the president.

It appeared from the testimony that fellow employees of Marthers had been teasing him by throwing a rubber eraser at him. Exasperated Marthers, who lives at 413 Warren street, threw the rubber out of an open window to get rid of it.

It struck the soldier who complained to the sergeant. The latter and a corporal entered the factory and demanded to know who had thrown the eraser out of the window. Marthers stepped forward and admitted he was the guilty person. He apologized and stated he had no intention of hitting any one with the rubber and regretted what had happened.

The soldier evidently felt his dignity had been hurt and he insisted on Marthers being arrested. Special Policeman Fox at the plant summoned the draughtsman to court Judge Frank Wilder took the view that Marthers had no intention of hitting the soldier and nolle the case on payment of costs.

### Conference Committee Will Report Amended Measure to Both Branches of Congress For Prompt Action—Senate Amendments Prohibiting Sale of Liquor at Army Camps and Otherwise Safeguarding Troops' Morals Are Retained.

Washington, May 10—Conferees on the army bill reached an agreement today and the measure will be reported to the two houses for confirmation as soon as possible.

The conferees made the age limit of those subject to the selective draft 21 to 30 years, inclusive, in place of the 21 to 27 limits in the senate bill and 21 to 40 in the house bill.

The amendment put in by the senate permitting Col. Roosevelt to raise four divisions for service in France was eliminated, as was another authorizing the raising of three volunteer regiments for border patrol duty.

The senate amendments prohibiting the sale of liquor at army camps and otherwise safeguarding the morals of the troops are retained.

### REPORT SINKING OF TWO MORE BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIPS BY GERMAN SUBS

London, May 10—Two more hospital ships have been torpedoed by German submarines since the British aeroplanes raided the town of Freiburg as a reprisal for previous sinkings of hospital ships, Andrew Bonar Law, member of the British war council, announced today in the house of commons.

### BRITISH CRUISERS ENGAGE 11 GERMAN DESTROYERS AT LONG RANGE, AND PUT THEM TO FLIGHT

London, May 10—A British force of light cruisers and destroyers chased 11 German destroyers today, engaging them at long range but being unable to overtake them, says an official statement this afternoon.

### PHONES POLICE HE HAS KILLED 4; HANGS SELF

Young Kentucky Farmer Slays Parents, Brother and Latter's Wife

Elkton, Ky., May 10—Frank Millen, a young farmer, early today killed his father, Charles Millen; his mother, Mrs. Betty Millen; his brother, Elmore, and his brother's wife, Amy, with an axe, and hanged himself.

Young Millen notified the authorities here by telephone that he had slain the members of his family and was about to take his own life. "The whole family is dead but me," he told Coroner Bartlett, over the wire, "and I will be dead when you get here."

The coroner, sheriff and chief of police hurried to the Millen home, about three miles away, where they found the slayer's body hanging from a rafter of a rear porch and the bodies of the others lying about.

Continued sickness, it was said, had unbalanced young Millen's mind.

### SENATOR FORAKER, WHO NOMINATED MCKINLEY, IS DEAD

Cincinnati, May 10—Joseph Benson Foraker, former United States senator from Ohio, lawyer, orator, soldier and citizen, died at his home here today, aged 70.

Mr. Foraker had been in poor health since his retirement from the senate in 1909, but it was not until two weeks ago that he was forced to his bed and his condition was not regarded as critical until last night. Mr. Foraker was twice elected and twice defeated in contests for the governorship of Ohio, while he served two terms in the United States senate from 1897 to 1909. He had the honor of presenting the name of William McKinley to the Republican national convention in 1896 and 1900.

### CONDUCTOR FINED.

Fred L. Riley, of New Rochelle, who has been working about six weeks for the Connecticut Co. as a conductor, was fined \$15 by Judge Frank Wilder in the city court this morning charged with theft of \$16.10 from the company.

MYSTIC STRIKERS RETURN

Mystic, May 10—At a conference this morning between employees and Manager Charles E. Wheeler of the Standard Machine Co. the strike existing for several days to obtain a nine hour day was settled. The men will resume work Friday on understanding that they get the shorter day on June 1 if the concern can make its contracts on that basis, which is deemed probable. About 100 men were out.